

13 July 1967

## NOTE FOR THE DDI

Jack:

I am attaching a memorandum from Jim Brammell which summarizes CIA support to the Department of Commerce on the question of licensing an item of military importance to Poland. The item involved is a Worden gravimeter which has important geodetic uses and which would be particularly helpful to the USSR in the development of a worldwide geodetic coordinate system and would help to establish an accurate relationship between Soviet missile launch sites and targets in the United States.

25X1A

25X1A9a

In over 90% of its licensing actions, Commerce is able to determine from the record that there is no security problem and, therefore, is able to take action without reference to any other agency, including CIA. This was one of those cases in which the Agency was not informed prior to the Commerce decision. However, to the credit of [REDACTED] of Jim Brammell's staff -- who has been working closely with us on trade control matters for a long time -- the Commerce decision was identified from information included in an exchange of cables between Washington and the American Embassy in Warsaw. [REDACTED] notified our trade control staff regarding the dangers of selling this equipment to a Communist country, and our staff in turn notified the Department of Commerce. As a consequence, Commerce has withdrawn the license pending further review.

As you will see from the newspaper articles attached to Jim Brammell's memorandum, Senators Mundt and Harry Byrd raised sharp objections to this license. However, by the time their complaints were received Commerce was able to advise them that the license had already been withdrawn because of certain intelligence information.

While we have done more than required in this particular case and have saved Commerce some embarrassment, I hope it doesn't lead to Congressional demands that Commerce submit the other 90% of their licensing actions to CIA for review in order to avoid another incident of this kind. This would create an impossible workload, and the extremely small additional protection afforded US national security interests would not make the effort worthwhile.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]  
WILLIAM N. MORELL, JR.  
Director  
Economic Research

**Distribution:**

Orig. - DDI

2 - OD/OER

③ - OD/OBI: (2-D/OB); 1-GD/X)

1 - T/TF

OD/OER: W. Morell, Jr. [REDACTED] (13 Jul 67)

25X1A